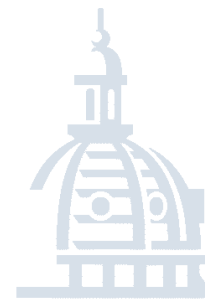


Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 2075 – Cancer Clinical Trials, Insurance Coverage (LSB 5238HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 2075 requires health care policies to provide coverage benefits for routine patient costs incurred for cancer treatment in an approved cancer clinical trial to the same extent that the policy covers other conditions. The Bill specifies that only routine patient care costs are covered and provides instances of treatments that are not covered. The Bill sets requirements outlining the scope of the costs to be covered as well as the definition of an approved cancer trial.

Background

The legislation would apply only to State plans and not Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) health plans. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the current provider of State health insurance plans, covers cancer clinical trials for conditions that are life threatening or to prevent severe disability. The hawk-i Program has two participating health plans, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield and United HealthCare. Both of these plans pay for patient care costs that they would otherwise pay if the patient was not participating in a clinical trial.

Assumptions

The Bill would not result in an increase in costs incurred for expenditures related to providing health benefits for State employees because the Bill would require the State plans to continue to pay for routine care costs.

Fiscal Impact

There is not sufficient data from the insurance industry about the potential costs associated with this Bill. The fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time.

Sources

Department of Human Services
Iowa Insurance Division
Legislative Services Agency
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

January 20, 2010

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
